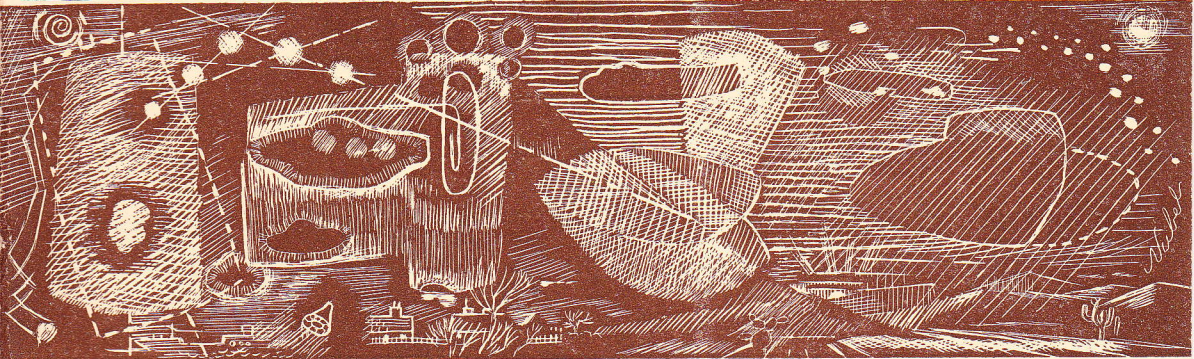


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BUFORA



JOURNAL

AND BULLETIN

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BRITISH U.F.O. RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

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The BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Founded 1962

AIMS:

1. To encourage and promote unbiased scientific investigation and research into Unidentified Flying Object phenomena.
2. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to Unidentified Flying Objects.
3. To co-ordinate UFO Research on a nation-wide scale and co-operate with persons and organisations engaged upon similar research in all parts of the world.

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THE BUFORA JOURNAL AND BULLETIN

Volume 1 Number 5

Summer 1965

Editor : J. Cleary-Baker, Ph.D.

Editorial Address : 3 Devenish Road, Weeke,
Winchester, Hants.

EDITORIAL

When I drafted the Constitution of the British U.F.O. Research Association, I was careful to preserve one of the traditions shared by its parent bodies, the London U.F.O. Research Organisation and the British U.F.O. Association. I framed the statement of BUFORA's Aims in terms which were non-committal as to the true nature of U.F.Os.

This was a necessary precaution in respect of a Body engaged upon the scientific investigation of UFO phenomena. We cannot, as yet, **prove** that a UFO is this, that or the other thing. Practically all our evidence concerning UFOs is, as of now, circumstantial.

For my own part, in common with the great majority of those active in UFO-research, I am of the opinion that the overwhelming weight of available evidence is in favour of the theory that UFOs are spacecraft, piloted or controlled by alien intelligences.

However, this is not a view which all researchers share. In the United States, for instance, there are schools of thought on UFOs which maintain that these objects are of earthly origin. Some of these schools are of the cranky and cultist sort, believing in mysterious worlds beneath the Earth, or the like. Others are of a more rational complexion, like that represented by Dr. Leon Davidson, who apparently blames the Central Intelligence Agency for creating and perpetuating a myth of UFOs.

I suppose it is just possible, remotely conceivable if you like, that somebody, someday, may come up with an explanation of UFO phenomena which will discredit the spaceship theory. Possible but very unlikely indeed. It is noteworthy that the swing of informed opinion seems to be all the other way. For example, the American researcher and Editor of "Saucer News", James Moseley, once a wholehearted advocate of the notion that all UFOs originate on Earth, now appears to have modified his attitude to the extent of admitting that the spaceship theory is more plausible in certain instances.

If UFOs are spaceships, it is probable that they originate on a planet circling another star, perhaps many light-years distant from our solar system. Living organisms of a comparatively low type probably exist on Mars and may possibly exist on Venus. The other planets and satellites of the sun's family are totally unsuited to support life as we know it. Some readers may cavil at the restriction but what is the point of speculating about hypothetical organisms which might be, let us say, silicon-based and capable of breathing an atmosphere of methane? There is no shred of proof that such beings exist anywhere and if they did they would not be life-forms but something for which we have no term in our vocabulary. If speculation is to remain rational, in the course of discussion on the possible habitability of other worlds, "life" must be assumed to mean life as we know it.

There have been sporadic outbreaks of UFO activity over the last three thousand years, from the times of Ancient Egypt down to the present day. Does this not tend to suggest that the UFO-denizens have been sharing the planet with humanity over this period? There was no need for the two races to clash. UFO bases in remote Brazilian jungles or Mongolian deserts, could hardly become known to, much less threatened by, non-mechanical societies with an exploratory potential restricted to the pace of horse or camel and the range of sail; societies, furthermore, wherein weapons were of a primitive nature.

As to why the UFO-denizens are in our solar system at all, who can say? Perhaps to exploit some portion of its natural resources for the benefit of the home planet, far away in space. Whatever the reason, the existence, within the system, of a fertile life-nursery in the shape of planet Earth, must have proved to be a boon to the colonists and probably an essential prerequisite of their continuing presence here.

With the outbreak of the Great War in 1914, scientific and technological progress, which had been proceeding at a steady pace since the Renaissance, took a spectacular leap forward. Advances in aviation must have brought home to the watching UFO-denizens the fact that the halcyon days of their immunity from observation by the local natives were numbered.

The World War of 1939-1945 may be assumed to have set the seal on the new and less desirable order of things for the visitors. The invention of Radar provided humanity with a means of observing UFOs other than the ordinary visual one. Rocket development began the process which may put Man among the planets. Most important of all, the sinister mushroom-clouds rising over Hiroshima and Nagasaki marked the advent of humanity's power to destroy not only itself but the green planet which has nurtured it. Not for nothing did the "Father of the Bomb," J. Robert Oppenheimer, as he gazed appalled at the fireball from the first test atomic explosion at Alamogordo and heard the daunting, menacing roar of the new force unleashed, find himself quoting aloud a line from the Hindu Bhagavadgita :

"I am become Death, the shatterer of worlds."

It may be speculation only which links all these events with the UFOs. Yet it is surely significant that they have coincided in point of time with a wave of UFO activity, sustained and hitherto unparalleled in intensity?

In 1943, when the aerial activities of the combatant nations were reaching a peak, the so-called Foo-fighters made their appearance on all the fighting fronts, from Europe to the Pacific and the Far East.

In 1946 came the Ghost Rockets. Their activities were confined to Western Europe and may be said to have been pivoted on the Baltic area. In fact, on the former German Rocket Experimental Base at Peenemunde.

In 1947, when atomic and rocket progress was centred in the United States, "flying saucer" activity on a large scale began over the New World and has continued ever since.

Observation reveals that atomic and long-range rocket installations are often a target for observation by UFOs. So are the great detectors of the U.S. early-warning system, situated in Alaska. In 1961, in the early Spring, prior to the Soviet initiative in launching manned rocket-ships into orbit, a wave of UFO activity over Russia set the official machine explaining to Ivan Ivanovitch that he was witnessing nothing more than the creations of Capitalist propaganda! (Which must have cheered Dr. Leon Davidson very much).

Could it be, I wonder, that cigar-shaped UFOs and mysterious noises in the vicinity of Warminster in Wiltshire, are not wholly unconnected with the Government's home-from-home at Porton, not so far away as the UFO flies, which specializes in the innocent joys of Biological Warfare?

Yes, of course I am speculating! I would defend myself on two counts. Firstly, in the absence of concrete facts, the use of controlled imagination may provide a clue to the solution of what might otherwise remain an impenetrable mystery. Secondly, these speculations of mine FIT THE FACTS OF OBSERVATION, in a manner which other hypotheses of UFO activity do not.

To continue, is it not a reasonable supposition that the UFO-denizens are as much concerned as we are to prevent the outbreak of World War Three? Not on our account but on their own? A planet devastated and rendered all but uninhabitable by radioactivity and nuclear fallout, would suit them as little as it would suit us. So means have to be found to ensure that Armageddon does not happen.

To come swooping down on us with ray-guns and all the usual impedimenta associated with the brand of Science-Fiction usually denominated "Space Opera," would defeat their purpose in that we should, in panic and seeking to defend ourselves, unleash the very tide of destruction which, *ex hypothesi*, the operation would be designed to prevent. I should rather anticipate that psychological and other indirect methods of domination would be employed and that overt action against military installations and establishments would eventuate only if the outbreak of World War Three were imminent.

All this might be looked upon as the reverse of deplorable by the ordinary citizen, who hates nobody and would be glad to see the weapons of universal destruction abolished and the threat of a new World War removed. There is, however, a possible snag. Suppose that an alien force should decide that terrestrial peace and stability could best be insured by a worldwide hegemony of some monolithic political system, which might itself be brought under alien control at the highest level of government?

Gray Barker wrote, of the year 1954. "One had the impression that something was being sat upon, that there were secrets struggling for revelation to an unsuspecting world." I don't think 1965 is different from 1954 in this respect. There is more going on than either we or our rulers know about, or so I suspect.

Who knows into what byways UFO-research may lead any of us, at any time?

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1965

In accordance with the provision of Article 8 (d) of the Constitution of the British U.F.O. Research Association, preliminary notification is given herewith that the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Saturday, November 27th. 1965, probably at Kensington Central Library, at 7 p.m.

Nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer of the Association, also for the eight remaining seats on the National Executive Committee, should reach the Honorary Secretary in writing not later than Saturday, October 16th. 1965. Resolutions to be proposed and debated at the A.G.M. should also be submitted to the Hon. Sec. by that date, for inclusion on the Agenda of the Meeting.

In the event that no rival nominations are received in respect of the above-listed offices and seats, the members at present occupying them shall be deemed to be re-elected unopposed. If any of these offices or seats should fall vacant before the A.G.M., which would otherwise have been uncontested, nominations to fill the same will be accepted and voted upon at the Meeting.

It should be noted, in view of past misunderstandings, that all offices within BUFORA other than those listed above, are filled by appointment of the Committee.

THE SUN

To the naked eye observer there are about 6000 stars which can be seen, but of these there is one which is more important to us than any other object in the universe. It is not particularly bright as stars go, in fact, compared with the other stars in the night sky it is rather faint, but because it lies relatively near to us in space, this star, which we call the sun, is the hinge around which our lives turn.

Statistically, the sun is a ball of gas 864,000 miles in diameter with a surface temperature of 6000 degrees Centigrade, rising to many millions of degrees at the centre. The composition is 81 per cent hydrogen, 18 per cent helium, and 0.03 per cent oxygen, with the remaining elements making up the balance, a total mass of 2×10^{27} tons decreasing at the rate of 6000 million tons per second due to loss in producing the light and heat radiated into space. This energy release gives the sun a brightness of 300,000 candles per square inch of surface!

The surface of the sun which we see is called the photosphere, and it is here that sunspots are found. The exact nature of sunspots is not certain, but it is thought that they are whirling storms in the sun's surface and the motion causes the gases to expand and cool to 4000 degrees Centigrade, making them appear dark by comparison with the rest of the surface, looking like black spots on the disc. They usually occur in groups and may be as much as 50,000 miles in diameter. Associated with sunspots, and also lying in the photosphere, are the faculae. These are bright spots and lines thought to be mountains of luminous gas. For a reason not yet discovered the number of sunspots on the sun's disc increases from time to time, being at a maximum every eleven years, the last maximum being in 1957-8, the time of the International Geophysical Year. The highest number of spots recorded was 263 in October, 1957, but the longest-lasting sunspot was seen in 1840 with a duration of 18 months.

Above the photosphere lies the reversing layer, a band of cooler gas about 500 miles thick which gives way to the brilliant red belt of hydrogen gas called the chromosphere. In this layer, which is several thousands of miles thick, the prominences occur. The prominences, also brilliant red in colour due to the burning hydrogen present, are giant flame-like extensions which leap from the surface at the rate of many hundreds of thousands of miles per second before falling back. Their appearance is described variously as eruptive, when they ascend like columns of gas; tornado, when they soar up in a tightly twisting spiral; quiescent, when they move slowly and may last for several days; and spot, when they rise up like fountains.

Beyond the chromosphere lies the corona. So faint is the light from this region that it can only be seen during a total solar eclipse when the light from the sun's surface is cut off, and at such times the corona appears as a pearly halo, partly due to the light emitted by the corona itself, and partly due to light reflected from particles within the corona. The density of matter in the corona decreases with distance from the sun until it is impossible to determine whether any particular region is within the corona or merely interplanetary space.

As we have said, the sun is quite an ordinary star, and it is situated about two-thirds of the distance from the centre to the edge of the Galaxy. Due to the rotation of the Galaxy the sun - and the planets - are moving in the direction of the constellation Cepheus at a speed of 170 miles per second, and its motion relative to the neighbouring stars is 12 miles per second towards the constellation Hercules.

To an observer on earth the sun and the moon both subtend an angle of a half-degree. Since the path of the moon around the sky is at an angle of only 7 degrees to that of the sun, there are occasions, particularly when the two bodies lie near the intersections of the two paths, when the moon passes in front of the sun, possibly completely covering it. Such occurrences are known as solar eclipses and according to the relative positions of the sun and the moon a terrestrial observer will see the sun partially or totally covered. An observer sited on the moon would witness similar eclipses when the earth came between him and the sun, and to us on earth such an event would have the appearance of a dark shadow - that of the earth - passing over part or all of the moon's surface. This is called a partial or a total lunar eclipse. During such eclipses the earth's shadow on the moon appears coppery brown due to the refraction of sunlight by the earth's atmosphere.

It can be proved that the number of eclipses - solar or lunar - which can take place in one year lies between 7 and 2, and the maximum length of a solar eclipse as seen from the British Isles is 5 minutes 30 seconds. In these islands it is not uncommon to see a partial or even a total lunar eclipse, but solar eclipses are much more rare, and the next total solar eclipse to be seen here will take place in 1999.

The source of the tremendous energy which the sun expends is believed to be a thermonuclear reaction known as the Carbon-Nitrogen cycle, whereby an atom of carbon successively captures four hydrogen atoms giving out one helium atom, two positrons and a considerable amount of energy together with the original carbon atom, which may be thus regarded as a catalyst in this process which takes about 7 million years to complete.

In the Galaxy there are about one hundred thousand millions stars ranging from tiny dwarfs, not much larger than the earth, to giant balls of gas many millions of times larger than the sun, with colours ranging from dark red - at a temperature of 2800 degrees Centigrade - to brilliant white and blue stars at temperatures of 13,000 degrees and even hotter, but the essential one for us, is the sun, a mere 93,000,000 miles away.

F. Malcolm Bull

YOUR HELP IS REQUESTED

The National Executive Committee, in its wisdom, has decreed that this "Journal" shall in future consist of 20 pages instead of 16 as before. You might suppose that to fill a mere 20 pages is easy. Don't be deceived - it isn't! Of course, it would be simple to spin out this article to an inordinate length and pad that one with all sorts of irrelevant material. Simple but unfair to our readers and bad journalism to boot!

This is where you, the reader, come in. If you have anything sensible to say about UFOs and matters cognate, get it down on paper - typed on one side of the paper only and with double-spacing between lines - and send it to me. If it is usable I'll use it. If it isn't, nobody will be a penny worse!

Contributions please!

UFO SIGHTING REPORTS — A NEW POLICY

In future, the only UFO sighting-reports which will appear in this Journal will be those which embodied sufficient data to enable an evaluation to be undertaken. The evaluation, in each case, will be included with the report.

As a general rule, the reports which will be featured will be those in which it has not been possible to explain what was seen in terms of any known object or natural phenomenon. From time to time, however, either by reason of the notoriety which a report may have attained through journalistic activity, or as a matter of interest to students, sightings which have been explained in non-UFO terms may also appear.

It is not felt that any good purpose would be served by presenting as of yore, a long list of doubtful sightings, mostly scrappy and inadequately reported and without any evaluations appended.

Some of the Member Societies within BUFORA are doing an excellent job of investigating UFO sighting reports. They are investigating with care and impartiality and turning in to H.Q. the kind of reports which can be evaluated and to which a "verdict" can be attached with a considerable degree of confidence.

Other Member Societies - no names, no pack-drill! - have not yet "caught on" to the meaning of scientific investigation of UFOs. They present us periodically with a long list of dubious lights-in-the-sky and luminous bats-in-the-belfry, the same reported inadequately and sketchily by such unreliable witnesses as space-struck small boys and befuddled courting-couples! Is there any need to invoke sinister conspiracies to account for the refusal of the scientific world to take such "evidence" seriously?

BUFORA issues a Sighting Report Form, framed on the lines of the one used by the U.S. UFO Investigative Project, "Bluebook." Is it too much to ask that investigators should employ this Form, or one like it, on all occasions? One cannot evaluate a report in the absence of all or most of the vital data needed.

Our friends and colleagues of the Isle-of-Wight U.F.O. Investigation Society will continue to issue their UFOLOG, with its International Supplement culled from information in foreign periodicals. Readers who may wish to note the raw material of sightings at home or abroad, with a few to initiating further and more detailed enquiries, are referred to UFOLOG.

UFOLOG is priced at 10/6 for 12 (approximately) monthly issues. Specimen copies obtainable at 1/-, plus postage, from :-

Mr. S. Richards,
'Draycot Villa',
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Wootton, Ryde, Isle-of-Wight.

J. C-B.

AIR FORCE SECRETLY WARNS PILOT OF DANGER

In a startling report just received, a former Navy pilot has revealed an Air Force warning that he might become seriously ill after three UFOs closely circled his plane. During an interview with an AF major at Kirtland Air Force Base, strict secrecy was imposed on the pilot. Except for his wife, who had to be prepared if he were suddenly stricken, he was ordered not to tell anyone about the encounter or the radiation hazard.

The pilot, who served in the Navy in World War II, is now a service engineer for a large tool company. He has a B.Sc. degree in mechanical engineering. He uses a private plane in business; to date, he has logged over 6,000 flying hours. Following is his report of the incident which occurred on August 13th, 1959 :-

Flying a Cessna 170, en route from Hobbs to Albuquerque, N.M., he was holding a course of 313 degrees, at 8,000 ft. altitude. Suddenly he was amazed to see his Magnesyn electric compass revolving instead of indicating the course. Thinking the Magnesyn must be "haywire," he looked at the standard magnetic compass. "It was spinning so crazily that I couldn't read it," the pilot reports.

A moment later, he was startled to see three oval-shaped devices in close echelon formation pass directly in front of the Cessna. They were grey in colour and identical in shape - like two bowls face to face (one inverted on the other) but with bottoms rounded instead of flat. The pilot estimated their diameter at about eight feet, but they could have been considerably larger. Since the UFOs were circling the plane at nearly 250 mph, no other details could be noted except that they left a short, wispy tail.

As the strange objects circled the Cessna, the Magnesyn compass continued to revolve, precisely indicating the UFOs' bearing. Holding the same tight formation, the unknown devices finished another circle, passing in front and then disappearing to the rear. The Magnesyn then came to rest near its original heading and the standard magnetic compass finally stopped its "crazy spinning" and returned to normal.

Upon landing at the Base, states the report, the pilot was "hustled to an office and interrogated for about two hours by an AF major - the UFO Officer at the Field." Then came the statement that "raised the hair on the back of my neck." The AF major told him that if anything unusual happened, or he had any unusual illness in the next six months, "to get to a government hospital right away." The Air Force, the major said, would take care of him.

Some years ago, Capt. E. J. Ruppelt, former Chief of Project Blue Book, confirmed that AF instrumentation had recorded high radioactivity when UFOs passed over the test area. Also, several apparently genuine cases of illness from UFO radiation are on record.

In the case of the former Navy pilot, the fear injected by the AF warning kept him and his wife in a state of apprehension until six months had passed and he decided that the AF was wrong to conceal the facts.

Reprinted from the NICAP "UFO Investigator."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clare College,
CAMBRIDGE.

12th June, 1965

Dear Sir,

How often it is that interesting lines of UFO research are not followed up because none has the necessary technical knowledge in the right place at the right time. As a possible remedy, the Cambridge University Group (CUGIUFO) would like to suggest starting a technical information service. If anyone has a problem requiring specialist knowledge of any kind, he can

send it on to us and we will then attempt to answer it.

Naturally, there a lot of difficulties inherent in such a scheme, not least the fact that we are only at University for about half the year, nevertheless, the ideal merits consideration. Quite probably, we will not know the answers ourselves, but at a University there are facilities for finding out almost anything. Scientific questions of any kind will be welcome, and we can also do translations from foreign languages, or look up historical documents. For a trial period at least, queries can be sent to the Secretary of CUGIUFO, and if users cannot remember the Name and College of the current secretary, they may always be addressed via the Union Society, Cambridge. Enclosing S. A. E.s with queries would help to keep the scheme financially sound.

There will be many other societies and individuals able and willing to offer similar services, and we hope, by setting a lead to encourage others to follow and offer specialist advice on particular subjects. For example satellite predictions, or releasing times and places of balloons might interest some group. Perhaps, even the number of different people writing to various official establishments would be reduced, leading to better liaison and relations with them. Particularly interesting queries might be worthy of wider circulation and could form valuable material for the BUFORA journal itself.

Yours Faithfully,

Anthony Durham

Anthony Durham, Hon. Sec. CUGIUFO.

BOOK REVIEW

"When Prophecy Fails"

by Leon Festinger, Henry W. Riecken & Stanley Schachter.
Published by Harper Torchbooks, New York, Evanston
and London.

This book was issued originally by the University of Minnesota. It is a blow by blow account of what happened to a little group of Flying Saucer Cultists, who, under the influence of the predictions of a medium and of the writings of the late George Adamski, thought that the World would end, with a universal flood, on December 21st 1954, with the members of the group saved from a watery grave by an eleventh-hour pickup by saucers. The authors, learning of the prediction, managed to "plant" observers inside the group, in order to record and study at first hand the psychological reactions of the believers.

It is a pitiful tale, of credulity, blind faith and muddled thinking. If anything could cure a Flying Saucer Cultist of his ailment, this book should do so. However, as the authors remark :

"A man with a conviction is a hard man to change. Tell him you disagree and he turns away. Show him facts or figures and he questions your sources. Appeal to logic and he fails to see your point."

One can gather from the personal histories of the believers, which are set out in this account in as much detail as became available to the authors, how frustration, a sense of personal inadequacy and neurotic inability to cope with the stresses of modern living, predispose suitable subjects to fall victim to the insidious lure of cults which promise their followers a favoured role denied to outsiders.

Superstition feeds on credulity. As the day of doom approached, the mental attitudes of the group seem to have become more and more divorced from reality. Casual visitors and even adolescent practical jokers, who called at the house in which the faithful awaited the end and their own translation to celestial realms, were hailed as disguised spacemen. As one reads this cold and factual presentation of a delusion and its results, one can sense the unnatural, unhealthy atmosphere which pervaded the dwelling.

I can best sum up the impact of this narrative by revealing that I, who, when I began to read it, was amused by the follies of the believers and frankly contemptuous of their plight, when I concluded its reading found myself pitying them and moved to a feeling of anger against those who exploit UFO phenomena for money and in the interests of a pseudo-religious cultism.

Did the inevitable failure of the prediction of devastation shake the believers' faith in their medium and their saucer supermen? In the case of a few it did, but most of them found excuses for the fiasco and continued in the same current of delusion as hitherto.

Magna est delusio!

J. C-B.

STRANGE SIGNALS — T. T.

Strange Morse transmissions! Stations jamming! Interference and fading! What a lot of queries the Ed. dept. put forward in "Round the dial" (Vol 1, No. 3)

And behind those pertinent inquiries can I detect an air of optimism that some of the effects cannot be resolved? To give a comprehensive explanation of all the phenomena described would be a colossal undertaking guaranteed to fill this Journal many times over. How many readers would relish a lengthy treatise embodying the Principles of Electronics, Transmission and Propagation Theory of Radio Waves, modern applications of communication techniques, causes and characteristics of interference, audible and visual (as in the case of TV). And to round it off, a foray into the realms of politics viz, jamming stations! Altogether a Herculean task anyone would shrink from.

Rather than cover in detail such a wide field it would be more useful to treat each specific point in the article as it arose.

(1) **Fading and jamming :** A brief look at the types of fading and causes may be helpful here. Radio waves travel through the Ionosphere which comprises five ionised layers extending from about 30 miles to 300 miles above the earth. During nightfall the lower layers disappear or are weakly diffused and the result is less attenuation of radio signals, giving greatly increased ranges. The various forms of fading - "Selective", i.e. distortion of certain frequencies in the station sidebands, "Polarization" which can produce periodic, rapid or slow fading, "Interference" fading and others depending on the frequency in use - can all be attributed to the action of the Ionosphere on propagated signals. "Storms" in this region caused by solar activity sometimes produces a periodic "Flutter" fading. Adverse atmospheric and met. conditions also contribute.

Jamming, if anyone had access to such delicate information would he be permitted to disclose specific details? Generally speaking, though, if the U.S.A. (It wouldn't be cricket for the U.K. to indulge in such devices) wanted to render unintelligible, propaganda broadcasts of a foreign power - which shall be nameless - it would be a simple matter to mount a transmitter in a friendly state and beam on the same frequency a swamping or distorting modulation. The final results might sound like the proverbial speaker talking through the back of his hat, accompanied by a variety of buzzes, drones, whistles and what have you.

(2) **Interference :** Crackles are a common form of interference produced by industrial and domestic appliances. And by virtue of re-radiation by mains wiring the offending noises are often perceptible considerable distances from source. Typical effects of man-made static would be random clicks, bangs, and sounds of a recurring nature reminiscent of mechanical apparatus in action, also, various howls and whistles. Natural static caused by atmospherics is characterised by a hiss followed with a sharp crack, and is not necessarily always of local origin.

(3) **Unidentified Morse :** This is certainly more meaty material as regards an explanation. The U.K. alone must have hundreds of stations using C.W. transmissions for marine and aviation navigation purposes. After dark when conditions are favourable many more continental txs. must appear also. A typical mode of operation might be : Station identification (in Morse, of course) ; a break for 5 seconds : a continuous tone for 10 secs., another short break ; then a repeat of the cycle. Along the air corridors in the U.K. are situated Non-directional Beacons (NDBS) which serve as checking points for civil aircraft ; these employ frequencies on the Medium and Long Wavebands and possibly they are the mystery radio sources. A study of Ministry of Aviation material shows there are NDBS at 543 kcs. and 669 kcs., which does not tie in with the Editor's figures and Call-signs.

However, I have little doubt the strange transmissions can be attributed to unfamiliar government facilities, off-shore navigation aids, or European stations.

(4) **Other effects** described here indicate the reception of carrier transmissions minus their normal modulation. Often for test purposes transmitters are keyed without radiating information. In general on a domestic broadcast receiver we can expect to hear a variety of "baffling" noises. And apart from the effects of man-made and natural static, jamming, (buzzes, hums, etc.), and the various types of fading, there may be present in the cheaper sets, whistles, or "birdies" produced by two frequencies beating together. This effect is inherent in the design.

The entire range of possible effects is so varied and complex that it would be difficult to make an individual classification, either in retrospect or anticipation.

But it would seem to me fairly safe to advocate a mundane source for the phenomena recorded, however disappointing that may be to some Ufologists.

One redeeming aspect presents itself however. In these days of terrestrial space travel, Early Bird, etc., and the imminence of Lasers to oust electro-magnetic waves as a medium of communications, are we being consistent in our appraisal of the U.F.O. problem when we credit the extra-terrestrials with employing the antiquated techniques of C.W. and Morse as a means of communication ?

UFO SIGHTINGS IN SOUTH AMERICA

July 1965 brought a flurry of UFO reports from several South American countries. Of these, the following seem to me to relate unquestionably to extra-terrestrial aeroforms.

July 4th. 8.15 p.m. Bahia Blanca, Argentina.

A business man, E. Taboada, with a friend, saw and photographed a lenticular UFO which shone with a brilliant white light and emitted sparks. The UFO was observed in the NW, about 30 degrees above the horizon.

Rep. "La Manana," Montevideo : 10.7.'65.

July 5th. Sarandi, Rio do Sul, Brazil.

Many persons watched a discoid UFO which seemed to rotate on its axis while in flight. It moved NW, then altered course and vanished to southward. A similar object was seen on the following day.

Rep. "El Bien Publico," Montevideo : 11.7.'65.

July 8th. Valparaiso, Chile.

At intervals throughout the night, crews of Chilean warships in the Harbour saw, on the horizon, circular objects which emitted orange, white and green sparks.

Rep. "El Bien Publico," Montevideo : 11.7.'65.

July 8th. 11.45 p.m. Colonia, Uruguay.

Six journalists and about 150 other persons saw, low over the ocean about 600 metres from the beach, a UFO which was ovoid in shape and luminous. The UFO changed colour several times while under observation, appearing white, yellow, orange and green, then, as it moved off seaward, violet. It was said to have been very big.

Rep. "La Manana," Montevideo : 10.7.'65.

July 17th. Honda Beach, River Plate, Uruguay.

A number of persons watched a disc with four leg-like projections touch down on the beach in broad daylight. Following the hooting of a tug-boat on the river, the UFO suddenly shot skyward in a blinding flash of light. The same or a similar object was photographed recently hovering over the Argentinian city of Bahia Blanca.

Rep. "Belfast Newsletter," Belfast : 20.7.'65.

EVALUATION :

One might wish that more data were available in connection with these reports. I have condensed them, certainly, but only because the rather redundant wording of the Spanish originals, (excepting the last of course), adds nothing to the essential details of the sightings.

Nevertheless, it is clear that none of the objects listed can be regarded, without extravagance, as conventional aircraft. They all looked and behaved like UFOs, which whatever "Bluebook" and the Pentagonians may say, tend to exhibit a strong family likeness among themselves.

South America is a prolific source of UFO reports. May it not be that the UFO-denizens have bases located in the more remote and inaccessible regions of this vast land area, many thousands of square miles of which are still unexplored and virgin ?

J. C-B.

RADIOACTIVITY AND THE UFO

P. K. Haythornthwaite

Beset as ufologists are with masses of uncorroborated eye-witness data of doubtful reliability, it is only natural that a great deal of attention should have been devoted to the physical effects of UFOs, one aspect of the subject which appears relatively 'solid'. The electromagnetic effects, in particular, have encouraged the design of a number of E-M UFO-detectors of varying degrees of sensitivity to changing magnetic fields and VLF radio waves. In contrast, the possible radiation effects of UFOs appear to have been somewhat neglected.

The main reason for this is probably that, whereas changing magnetic fields (if this is what UFOs possess) cause noticeable effects in common items of equipment, compasses, radios, circuit-breakers and so on, moderate increases of radioactivity are detectable only on instruments specially designed for the purpose. Admittedly, photographic film is fogged by radiation, but the intensity needed is far more than we could reasonably expect from a UFO at any distance.

As far as I am aware at present, there are only a few cases where excess radioactivity has been correlated with UFOs with any degree of certainty, but these are of considerable interest. Perhaps the most convincing series is recorded by E. J. Ruppelt. (1) Between late 1949 and mid 1951, scientists at two laboratories in the United States obtained at least seven readings of abnormal background radioactivity which appeared to be associated with the passing of an unknown object. Considerable radioactivity was also found after the landing in the 'Olden Moore' Case; according to NICAP - Aimé Michel, (2) (3), though Menzel disputes this (9). To keep a sense of proportion, it should be remembered that there have been some landing cases where excess radioactivity has not been measured subsequently. The famous Poncey hole (4) is an example, and possibly the recent Socorro Case too, (5) though the accounts are somewhat vague on this point.

To monitor background radiation fluctuations is admittedly a rather more sophisticated and expensive matter than waiting for changes in the earth's magnetic field with apparatus of the compass-based type, but the cost is not altogether out of this world. A very light but robust Geiger Counter designed by the Atomic Energy Authority, can be obtained for under £10, (6) and an instrument such as this has certain advantages over E-M detectors. Firstly, the likelihood of stray readings is small; the close approach of a luminous watch would appear to be the only probable disturbing influence. Secondly, the apparatus is not mechanically delicate, or liable to be upset by vibrations and so on. Thirdly, by arranging for a number of partially shielded tubes, some idea of the direction of the source can be obtained.

Most UFO detectors suggested so far appear to have been designed as warning devices, often ringing a bell so that anyone within ear-shot can rush outside and scan the sky. This is a very useful function, but some method of continuous recording in addition would give added value both by giving some undeniable evidence of the detected disturbance, and by collecting data when no human observer was immediately available. (7) This data might be correlated with a UFO sighting subsequently.

Assuming that we are in a position to carry out some sort of instrument watch for UFOs, it is obviously desirable that we should attempt to place our equipment in an area where they are most likely to appear. In spite of the best efforts of the global orthotenists, however, no such area has so far clearly emerged. Perhaps the best hope at present is 'BAVIC', and as Aimé Michel is attempting to arrange a systematic watch along this line, (8) it seems worth suggesting that here is a case where instrumentation might be of considerable assistance.

I feel sure that the effective use of simple instrumentation could bring some useful advances in ufology. I must add though that, barring the cases reported by Ruppelt, I know of only one incident where equipment set up to detect UFOs has actually done so, and I should be most grateful to hear from anyone with some information on this subject.

- (1) Ruppelt, E. J. The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects. Chap. 15
- (2) NICAP. The UFO Evidence. pp. 114, 169.
- (3) Michel, A. Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery. p.252
- (4) " " " " " " " p.132
- (5) FSR Nov./Dec., 1964
- (6) The reference for the source of supply of this instrument has unfortunately been misplaced. Perhaps some reader can help out.
- (7) A design for a simple pen recorder is described in the December 1964 edition of the Journal of the British Astronomical Association. (Vol. 75, No. 1)
- (8) FSR May/June, 1963. Michel's 'Global Orthoteny'.
- (9) Menzel. The World of Flying Saucers p. 185.

UFOs & THE ANTARCTIC ICECAP

Students of UFO phenomena have explored a host of possibilities, likely and unlikely, which might explain the current invasion of our skies by what appear to be alien aeroforms. One idea is that there will soon be a worldwide flood, due to a tilting of the Earth as a consequence of the growth of the Antarctic icecap, from which watery disaster kindly spacemen are proposing to rescue deserving Flying Saucer Cultists. I understand that there is even a "Flood Group" of Cultists at present active in this Country.

An American engineer named Hugh Auchincloss Brown originated the notion of such a global catastrophe. In fairness to him, it should be stressed that he did so on what he regarded as sound scientific grounds and without knowledge of, or reference to, UFO phenomena. Brown was of the opinion that the growth of the icecap at the South Pole would cause the axis of the Earth to tilt. This could hardly be, however, in that calculation establishes that the stabilizing effect of the planet's equatorial bulge offsets the eccentric effect of the icecap by several thousand times.

Two other Americans, Charles H. Hapgood and James H. Campbell, fortified by the advice and qualified approval of no less an authority than the late Albert Einstein, published, in 1959, a book, "Earth's Shifting Crust," in which they advanced a new hypothesis. They knew that an axial tilt of the Earth was unlikely but assumed that the planet's outer crust might slip in relation to the body of the globe, due to the Antarctic icecap once more. One can picture what they mean by supposing a tablecloth pulled across the surface of a table. In this analogy, the table represents the body of the Earth - its core and mantle - and the cloth represents the outer crust.

I am willing to admit that the authors have made out a tolerably strong case for their hypothesis. There is a great deal of fossil and geological evidence which COULD be explained along the lines they suggest. It must be stressed, however, that the operative word here is "could," not, "must." For my part, I am obliged to add my humble voice to the chorus of critics who decline to accept the idea of crustal displacement as advocated by Hapgood and Campbell. I do so for two primary reasons.

Firstly, I doubt that the pressure of accumulating ice at the South Pole could shift the Earth's crust in the manner predicated. The terrestrial crust is not an homogeneous whole. It consists of strata of a wide variety of rocks, all of different densities. A sustained thrust would not, I think, result in a general crustal slip but in a wide variety of crustal deformations and crumplings.

Secondly, in view of the circumstance that the crustal slip hypothesis requires that there should be a worldwide flood every 5,000 to 7,000 years or so, I question the ability of life to evolve and flourish in such disturbed conditions. It would be analogous to trying to run a Stud-farm in the target area of an artillery range.

My view is that much of the evidence presented in support of the crustal slip idea - tropical vegetation and fauna in polar regions at past epochs and the like - can be explained in another way.

At present, the Earth is passing through a relatively stable period of its existence. The temperature and climatic conditions in a given area are determined largely by its geographical location. This may not always be so. Periods of stability may alternate with periods of intense seismic and volcanic activity, during which disturbances of the crust may facilitate the escape of internal heat in certain regions, which may counteract arctic conditions which would otherwise exist there.

In support of this notion I may cite the existence, in the Antarctic, of areas like the Bunge Oasis, where, apparently, a sustained outflow of internal heat keeps many square miles of land unfrozen and snow-free in the midst of Antarctic desolation.

(So far as warm oases in polar areas are concerned, of course, it seems improbable that higher forms of animal life could thrive through long sunless months of polar night, whatever might be the temperature of such areas. However, given suitable land-bridges to sunnier climes, annual migration of the animal species involved will dispose of that objection).

It is amusing to note that Hapgood drags in the "evidence" of Siberian mammoths preserved in the ice to support his ideas. This is a "gimmick" which is becoming a hardy perennial among persons wedded to catastrophist notions of terrestrial prehistory. The Fundamentalists drown the mammoths in Noah's Flood. Cosmic Ice theorists of the Hoerbiger-Bellamy persuasion kill them off as the Moon is captured by the Earth. I seem to recall that the Velikovsky vagaries destroyed them as the "comet" Venus passed by. It seems that mammoths, like cowards, die a thousand deaths! After this multiple decease, it would seem to be adding insult to injury that Soviet scientists should devour steaks from these same mammoths at scientific banquets!

There is, in fact, no real evidence that the mammoth became extinct until recent times. Folk-tales of various Amerind tribes, such as Oneida and Tuscarora, suggest that mammoths were alive in North America until comparatively recently. President Jefferson believed, on the basis of contemporary native testimony, that both the mammoth and the mastodon continued to survive in his day in remote areas of the Great North-West.

All this, readers may say, has little connection with UFOs. It has at anyrate this much

connection, that it throws doubt on yet another figment of Cultist imagination. Clearly, if no worldwide flood is in prospect, it can hardly be supposed that UFO-denizens are around for the purpose of rescuing the believers from a watery doom!

The Brown-Hapgood-Campbell ideas, of course, whatever may be their weaknesses, were advanced in good faith by persons with sound scientific training. It is unfortunate that they have been taken up by other persons without such training and used to support wild vaticinations of impending catastrophe.

J. C-B.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

"The Saucerian" April - May, 1965. Edited by the Committee of UFO-Worldwide,
90 Ferrand Avenue, Bierley, Bradford 4, Yorks.

This is a duplicated, very poorly-produced Journal with contents exclusively of a "cultist" nature. It contains little or nothing of interest to scientific UFO-researchers, or, indeed, to anyone who is not prepared to throw the accumulated knowledge of half-a-dozen sciences overboard in the interests of what may be described, in Carlyle's words, as, "a heterogenous mass of clotted bosh."

The Rev. Guy J. Cyr informs us that the surface of the Moon is covered with a luxurious forest, in which dwell superhuman beings. With all respect to the Reverend Gentleman, he is talking through his ecclesiastical hat! Any amateur astronomer in possession of a small telescope knows better.

Miss Pippa Braybrook contributes a paper entitled, "Bender and the Serpents," which is prefaced by an editorial observation which, apparently, seeks to link these snaky proceedings with the "Silence Group." Now, "Silence Group" is a term coined by Major Keyhoe to designate a group of officials in the Pentagon who are opposed to the divulging of UFO information to the public. It has nothing at all to do with the weird, occult shennanigans described by Miss Braybrook.

Martin Elsworth contributes an article, somewhat less wild and whirling than the others, concerning the alleged impending disaster said to be menacing the World as a consequence of the growth of the Antarctic icecap. I am surprised to note that he seems to regard the myth of Noah's Ark as serious history.

The Committee of UFO-Worldwide has undoubtedly produced this Journal with the best of intentions. I suggest to its members that there is a world of difference between impartiality in matters of rational opinion and omnivorous credulity in the field of the utterly irrational and impossible. One may, for example, be critical of the attitude of the British Medical Association towards Osteopathy, without advocating that its "Journal" be thrown open to the medical prescriptions of Siberian shamans or witch-doctors from the Congo. The Royal Astronomical Society might not merit condemnation for staging a debate on Hoerbiger's Cosmic Ice Theory, but certainly would if it gave serious ear to the notions of Flat-Earth fanatics.

J. C-B.

"UFO-nachrichten" - June, 1965. Karl L. Veit, 62 Wiesbaden-Schierstein,
Milanstrasse 5.

A well-produced, printed publication in the German language, albeit one which I recommend with certain reservations. Some of its contents are excellent, as, in the present issue, an account of a UFO sighting by Police-Chief Richard Crawford of Toledo, Ohio, on June 12th. 1964. I am less impressed, however, by the inclusion of various items of a "cultist" nature.

J. C-B.

Handbook of Occult & Religious Magazine Reviews," - Jan. 1965.

Published by E. Swift & D. A. Devitt, 68 Rutland Crescent, Trowbridge, Wilts.

This, no doubt, is a useful addition to the literature of the so-called "New Age" School of Thought, which is actually, so far as I can see, an attempt to revive old, stale and discredited pseudo-occult doctrines by superimposing upon them a thin veneer of modern technical terms.

For the information of the compilers, neither BUFOA nor LUFORO are now in being and neither were "occult" organisations when they were.

J. C-B.

"Saucer Forum"

April - May - June, 1965. Editor : Jimmy Goddard, 'Wynchlands',
Walton Bridge Rd., Shepperton, Surrey.

An old friend in a new format ! The standard of the duplicating is low but the publications contains enlightening brief reports of BUFORA lectures delivered by Gavin Gibbons, Lionel Beer and Stephen Smith.

I dislike the cover design, portraying a saucer in the mode of the late Adamski with a long-haired, slant-eyed gentleman floating above it.

J. C-B.

Newsletter No. 2 - June, 1965.

Published by the Merseyside UFO Research Group

Yeah ! Yeah ! Yeah ! I "dig" this little duplicated Newsletter, which represents a serious attempt to present such aspects of the UFO enigma as strike the attention of its producers.

This issue contains an excellent article on craters by Alan W. Sharp, B.Sc., a little marred, perhaps, by a too resolute and obviously preconceived opinion that UFOs don't exist. I saw the Charlton crater of 1963 and no amount of pontification, by the pundits of Reading University or anywhere else, will convince me that the crater in question was due to "drainage into a central cavity, or to anything but what I said at the time it was - the landing and take off of an unidentified flying object.

The Newsletter quotes a report from the NICAP "UFO Investigator" which I have considered deserving of reproduction elsewhere in this issue of the "Journal."

J. C-B.

"Phenomenes Spatiaux" - May, 1965.

Redaction, Administration G.E.P.A.,
69, rue de la Tombe-Issoire, Paris, 14, France.

I recommend this Bulletin to all readers who are familiar with the French language. It is the organ of the leading Organisation of French UFO-researchers and is worth every centime of the 750 francs at which it is priced.

The Editorial is by General Chassin, formerly General Air Defence Co-ordinator for NATO, who, during his term of service in that capacity, warned against the danger of mistaking UFOs for guided missiles, an error which might precipitate World War Three.

Contents include several articles by the well-known researcher M. Rene Fouere. One of these, "Soucoupes volantes et voyages interstellaires," treats at some length of the problems raised by travel among the stars, in the light of Einstein's Theory of Relativity.

J. C-B.

UFO SIGHTING IN THE ANTARCTIC

At 7.20 p.m. on July 3rd. 1965, personnel at Argentinian, Chilean and British bases in the Antarctic observed a UFO in the sky. The Argentinian Base is on Deception Island, (latitude 62 deg. 56' South : longitude 60 deg. 34' West), while the Chilean and British Bases are situated in Graham Land adjacent to it.

The UFO appeared like a very bright star and when first seen was moving with a zig-zagging motion and changing colour from yellow to blue-green.

After about 10 minutes, the UFO ceased to manoeuvre and hung stationary in the sky. For a further 20 minutes, watchers in the three bases were able to observe it with telescopes and theodolites. A corporal in the Chilean Base took ten colour photographs of the object, but these will have to be developed in March 1966 since the facilities at the Base are inadequate for this work.

It has been stated by the Chilean Base Commander, Mario Jahn Barrera, that electro-magnetic equipment at the Base was put out of action while the UFO hovered in the vicinity. This happened also in the Argentinian Base.

After 20 minutes, the UFO suddenly sped away northwards, at high velocity and emitting a brilliant glow.

The same or a similar object was observed from the Chilean Base on June 13th. 1965.

EVALUATION :

It will be interesting to note how Dr. Menzel and his happy band of "scientific" UFO debunkers set about explaining away this affair! A few more incidents like this and the one in the Azores, reported elsewhere in this issue, will come dangerously near to confronting certain Pentagonians with their recurring nightmare - THE UFO PAYOFF! I don't think anyone will accuse me of weak-minded credulity in the field of UFO phenomena, but I really do not see at all how any policy aimed at discrediting the evidence in this case can hope to succeed.

If the thing in the Antarctic sky wasn't an authentic UFO - an alien artifact under intelligent control - what was it? The range of alternative explanations is small. It narrows down, indeed, to two possibilities, if such they may be called. The personnel of all three bases were perpetrating a hoax. Or all of them were simultaneously hallucinated. Doesn't appear very likely in my book!

Can this and the UFO which flew over the Azores six days later have been one and the same craft? Interference with electro-magnetic equipment was a feature of both incidents. Any

UFO may cause such interference when very near at hand, to judge from available evidence, but only the Type 2 (B) consistently does so from great altitudes.

J. C-B.

A UFO STOPS THE CLOCKS

Reports from Santa Maria in the Azores state that a white cylindrical UFO flew slowly over the island on July 9th., at a height of about 33,000 ft. Electro-magnetic watches at the airport stopped and would not function again for 45 minutes. A similar type of interference stopped electro-magnetic clocks at the Vila do Porto weather bureau in the Portuguese Azores, as the UFO arrived overhead.

Later, the UFO turned up in the vicinity of Oporto in Portugal, where witnesses described its appearance as like a luminous and flattened balloon, glowing red and orange and occasionally emitting green rays. Radio reception was badly affected during the period of the sighting. After hovering for about 3 minutes in the vicinity of Motosinhos, the UFO sped away northward at high velocity.

A spokesman for the Vila do Porto weather bureau revealed that the UFO was observed there from 3 to 3.45 p.m., during which time it moved slowly NE at an altitude of between 24,000 and 30,000 ft. It was seen by the crews of British, French and Portuguese vessels in the vicinity of the Azores.

EVALUATION :

This is the type of UFO which American investigators call Type 2 (B), Code Name, "The Egg." This is an ovoid UFO with a diameter of from 160 to 200 ft., which appears to be surrounded by a powerful magnetic field.

Such UFOs have often been known to cause cars to stall. One made a nuisance of itself in the Levelland area of Texas, during the "flap" of November 1957, when it put cars and grain elevators out of action.

It may be all very well to go to work on - or rather IN - "The Egg," assuming one is able to gain admittance! It would seem less propitious to attempt to motor to the office with "The Egg" in the vicinity!

J. C-B.

UFO SIGHTING REPORTS

Members and Non-members are requested to send details of all recent UFO reports they obtain by way of mouth, from newspapers and magazines, etc., immediately to the Information Officer for the area concerned in order that a local investigation can be started while the sighting is still fresh in the minds of the eye-witnesses. If there has been a UFO landing it is essential that our investigators reach the spot before it becomes too disturbed.

Cumberland, Durham, Northumberland, Westmorland, North Riding of Yorkshire :

Tyneside UFO Society : William D. Muir, 72 Greystoke Avenue, Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Wirral Peninsula (Cheshire), Anglesey, Isle of Man, Lancashire, North Wales :

Merseyside UFO Research Society : Alan Rawlinson, 24 Saker Street, Liverpool 4. Tel. ANF 6921

Derbyshire, Cheshire, Staffordshire :

Direct Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena : P. Harrison, A.M.I.E.I., 19 Leicester Road, Salford 7, Lancs.

Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, East and West Ridings of Yorkshire :

Halifax Branch : John M. Stear, 2 High Park Crescent, Heaton, Bradford 9. Tel: Bradford 41842

North-east half of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Wales south of and including Cardiganshire and Montgomeryshire :

Cheltenham Flying Saucer Group : A. R. Cole, Ellesmere, 7 Okua Road, Charlton Kings, Glous.

Warwickshire :

Stratford-on-Avon Branch : J. D. Llewellyn, 63 Masons Road, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Rutland, Suffolk :

Cambridge University Group for the Investigation of UFOs : A. C. H. Durham, Clare College, Cambridge.

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire :

Oxford University UFOs Study Group : T. A. Williamson, Brasenose College, Oxford.

Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, South-western half of Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire :

British Flying Saucer Bureau : G. F. N. Knewstubb, F.B.I.S., A.Inst.I., 27 Avonmouth Road, Shirehampton, Bristol.

Hampshire, Isle of Wight :

Isle of Wight UFO Investigation Society : F. W. Smith, 4 Connaught Road, East Cowes, I.O.W.

Surrey :

Croydon UFO Research and Investigation Society : H. Roberts, 47 Brigstock Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

Scotland :

Scottish UFO Research Society : Glen Chandler, 11 Lismore Crescent, Edinburgh 8.

Tel : Abbeyhill 3025

London, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Middlesex, Sussex,

Eire and Northern Ireland :

BUFORA Central Information Officer : Dr. G. G. Doel, 26 Heath Drive, Potters Bar, Middlesex.

Tel : Potters Bar 54749.

